

William Yslas Velez, Ph.D.
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Dr. William Velez was born in Tucson, Arizona, and grew up in the nurturing embrace of the Spanish-speaking part of town. Velez' parents were both born in Mexico, in the state of Sonora. Velez earned all of his degrees from The University of Arizona, completing his doctoral degree in mathematics in 1975. Velez' research has focused on algebra and number theory. After completing his doctoral studies, Velez was employed at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, working on the Command and Control of Atomic Weapons systems. In 1977, Velez returned to academia and held the rank of professor of mathematics and university distinguished professor until retirement in 2018. In the late 1980s, Velez worked at the Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego, California, where he worked on communication systems for submarines, earning four patents. Velez served as a program officer at the National Science Foundation in 1992-93 and served as president of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science from 1994-96.